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Approved By: Nicole Duffy	

Sample Plan - FC

1. Purpose and Scope

Sampling of evidence is one of the most crucial initial steps in forensic drug analysis. The scientist must be certain that what is sampled is representative of the total population. The analyst must take into consideration the homogeneity (or lack thereof) among drug packaging (bags, packets, capsules, etc) and its contents. Careful visual inspection along with personal experience is essential in determining the proper sampling procedure.

A sampling plan that best fits the model of reasonable analyses that is cost effective and productive is as follows.

2. Definitions

No definitions are required for this procedure.

3. Procedures

3.1

Marijuana (cannabis)

Large amounts= Sample (1 gram) per item # submitted. Observe for consistency of color, texture and odor. (i.e. samples 1-5 are from large bales.)

Single brick= Sample (~1 gram) noting the consistency, homogeneity of sample.

Plastic bags= Sample (~1gram) 10% regardless of size up to 10 bags.

Loose Plant material= Sample (~1 gram)

Adult Plant= Sample leaves (~1 gram) Dried leaves required.

Young Plant= Sample leaves (~ 1 gram) Dried leaves required.

Hashish= Sample (~ 1gram)

Brownies= Sample (~3 grams) product from several areas.

Pipes/ Bongs= Scrape bowl for residual plant material. Rinse if necessary.

Hand rolled cigarettes/ butts= Sample (~ 1 gram if available)

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Residues- Sample all available. Rinse if necessary (i.e. scale currency).

3.2

Pills/Capsules

Pharmaceutical preparations have unique physical identifiers that can be used to preliminarily identify the controlled substance and concentration. If more than one pill is available to test, examine and analyze up to one pill. If only one pill is available use up to one half pill in order to retain some evidence if further analysis is required.

Clandestine preparations (i.e. Ecstasy, Methamphetamine) generally follow the same guidelines for analysis as pharmaceutical pills with a cautionary note that the preparations may not have reliable imprints and consistency (homogeneity) of sample may be poor.

3.3

Powders

Powders submitted for analysis may be bulk or individually packaged samples.

A bulk sample of material may be sampled (~50 milligrams) for analysis. Remove material packaging if present. Make notes on transmittal form (i.e. wrapping materials, layers & thickness) Obtain net weight if requested. Observe outer consistency of material. Transfer a sample (~

~50 milligrams) for analysis. Replace packaging materials and reseal in heat sealed evidence bag.

Individual packages (i.e. baggies, glassine packets) should be counted to verify transmittal form amount. Sample (~50 milligrams) 10% regardless of size up to 10 packages.

3.4

Liquids

Liquids submitted to the Drug Chemistry laboratory are evaluated for analysis based on type of examination. If the law enforcement agency is requesting alcohol (volatiles) analysis prior to drug testing or a Forensic Scientist deems the liquid a biological sample (i.e. urine) the sample will be transferred to Toxicology (FT) for analysis.

Pharmaceutical preparations (i.e. Methadone, Morphine) can be analyzed for scheduled substances, if a semi-quantitative assay is desired (i.e. product tampering) a suitable standard for comparison must accompany case. Liquids submitted for GHB/GBL analysis will be

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Procedures (Continued)

performed in Drug Chemistry (FC).

4. Notes

Deviations from Sampling Plan

Deviations from sampling plan can occur based on information not present at time of submission or analysis. Resubmission of cases for testing of additional items will promptly be honored.

5. Records

Drug Chemistry Checklist

FORM-FC-01

6. Policy References

Technical requirements	5
General	5.1
Sampling	5.7
Handling of test and calibration items	5.8

7. References

7.1 Related Procedures

No procedures are related to this procedure.

7.2 Reference Documents

No documents are referenced by this procedure.